



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

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EOC Update | Camping and Wildfire Preparedness

The threat of wildfire is very real. If you're planning a camping trip, it's important to be vigilant about fire safety. Open burning is prohibited and a campfire ban is currently in place throughout the Kamloops Fire Centre which includes the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS). Forest use restrictions are also in place in the vicinity of Placer Lake.

For more information please visit:

<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/DisplayBan.asp?ID=538#CampfireBans>

Discarded cigarette butts, campfires, hot exhaust pipes coming into contact with dry grass and vegetation, power tools (such as chainsaws,) Tiki torches and even discarded glass can all ignite a wildfire.

Local governments work with BC Parks, BC Wildfire and campground operators to provide as much notice as possible prior to issuing an Evacuation Order. When wildfire conditions change suddenly, it may be necessary to leave the area immediately.

Recent Examples

In late July and early August, the RDOS EOC issued Evacuation Orders for campgrounds threatened by wildfire. Campers had to leave their tents, trailers, vehicles and camping equipment behind.

Evacuation Orders are only issued when there is a potential risk to human safety. Whenever possible, the RDOS proactively communicates with park operators about the potential for an Evacuation Order to be issued. This is done to ensure a planned exit is possible, and to avoid causing panic. At certain times, immediate tactical evacuations occur to ensure public safety. A tactical evacuation may be issued with limited warning.

If conditions allow, those affected by an Evacuation Order may be given access to retrieve vital belongings, but only if authorized by the EOC and incident command.

Whether you're camping close to town or in the backcountry, you need to have a plan in place in case an **Evacuation Alert** or **Order** is issued.

Please see preparedness tips and links below.



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www.rdos.bc.ca

Evacuation Alert

- Prepare your **grab-and-go bag** with personal items, medications and documents.
- Designate a meeting site for family members outside the Evacuation area.
- Prepare to move any disabled persons and/or children.
- Prepare to move pets to a safe area.
- Arrange to transport your family members.
- Arrange accommodation for your family if possible. In the event of an Evacuation Order, Reception Centres will be opened if required

Evacuation Order

- Gather your **grab-and-go bag** with personal items and documents.
- Follow instructions from local officials via TV, radio or social media.
- Move to a **safe location** outside the impacted area.
- Return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Register with Emergency Social Services (ESS) even if you don't go to a reception centre: 250-486-1890.

BC Parks

Parks affected by wildfire include Cathedral Provincial Park, Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and Snowy Mountain Protected Area. For more information: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>

BC Wildfire

For current information please visit the BC Wildfire Service website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

To Report a Wildfire Call: 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your mobile phone.

DriveBC

www.drivebc.com for updates on closure of all BC highways.

PreparedBC

Property owners living in rural areas should prepare now for wildfire season. For more information on being prepared for emergencies visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc>

Other Tips and Resources

http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min_bylaws/EOC/2018Flood/20180718_RDOS_Flood_and_Fire_Preparedness_Info.pdf

For more information visit the RDOS website www.rdos.bc.ca

Issued by Director of RDOS Emergency Operations Centre

RDOS EOC 250-490-4225